Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-3.   (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) In a communication system, a method for processing a frame of data comprising:

partitioning said frame of data into at least first and second portions of data symbols;

assigning a first channel element to demodulate data symbols of said first portion of data symbols;

assigning a second channel element to demodulate data symbols of said second portion of data symbols.

demodulating said first and second portions of said data symbols by said first and second channel elements, respectively; and

~~The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising:~~

writing to, and subsequently reading from, demodulated data symbols from said first and second channel elements, a RAM in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system.

Claims 5-7.   (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) In a communication system, a method for processing a frame of data comprising:

partitioning said frame of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

assigning a plurality of channel elements to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols, respectively.

demodulating said plurality of portions of data symbols by said plurality of assigned channel elements, respectively; and

~~The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising:~~

writing to, and subsequently reading from, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements, a RAM in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system.

Claims 9-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) In a communication system, a method for processing a plurality of frames of data comprising:

partitioning each of said plurality of frames of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

assigning a plurality of channel elements to each of said plurality of frames of data to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data, respectively;

demodulating the data symbols in each of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data by said plurality of assigned channel elements, respectively; and

~~The method as recited in claim 16 further comprising:~~

writing to, and subsequently reading from, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements, a RAM in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system.

Claims 20 & 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a frame of data comprising:

a finger resource for partitioning said frame of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

a plurality of channel elements for demodulating data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols, respectively; and

~~The apparatus as recited in claim 20 further comprising:~~

a RAM for writing, and subsequently reading, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system.

23.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in ~~claim 20~~ claim 22 wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

24.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in ~~claim 20~~ claim 22 wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

25.   (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a plurality of frames of data comprising:

> a finger resource for partitioning each of said plurality of frames of data into a
> plurality of portions of data symbols; and

> a plurality of channel elements assigned to each of said plurality of frames of
data to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said
plurality of frames of data, respectively;

> ~~The apparatus as recited in claim 25~~ wherein the number of said plurality of
> channel elements assigned to each frame of data is based on a data rate of the data
> symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

27.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in ~~claim 25~~ claim 26 wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Currently Amended) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a plurality of frames of data comprising:

a finger resource for partitioning each of said plurality of frames of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

a plurality of channel elements assigned to each of said plurality of frames of data to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data, respectively; and

~~The apparatus as recited in claim 25 further comprising:~~

a RAM for writing, and subsequently reading, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system.

Claims 30-32.   (Canceled)

33.   (Currently Amended) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a frame of data comprising:

means for partitioning said frame of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

means for assigning a plurality of channel elements to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols, respectively;

means for demodulating said plurality of portions of data symbols by said plurality of assigned channel elements, respectively; and

~~The apparatus as recited in claim 31 further comprising:~~

means for writing to, and subsequently reading from, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements, a RAM in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system.

34.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in ~~claim 30~~ claim 33 wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

35.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in ~~claim 30~~ claim 33 wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

36.   (Canceled)

37.   (Currently Amended) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a plurality of frames of data comprising:

   means for partitioning each of said plurality of frames of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols; and

   means for assigning a plurality of channel elements to each of said plurality of frames of data to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data, respectively;

   ~~The apparatus as recited in claim 36~~ wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements assigned to each frame of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

38.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in ~~claim 36~~ claim 37 wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

39.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in ~~claim 36~~ claim 37 further comprising:

   means for receiving information related to a data rate of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data.

Claims 40-42.   (Canceled)

43.   (Currently Amended) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a plurality of frames of data comprising:

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means for partitioning each of said plurality of frames of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

means for assigning a plurality of channel elements to each of said plurality of frames of data to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data, respectively;

means for demodulating the data symbols in each of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data by said plurality of assigned channel elements, respectively; and

means for writing to, and subsequently reading from, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements, a RAM in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system.

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